

22. A method of producing a cellular vaccine according to claim 21 comprising:

(a) incubating an avirulent or attenuated bacterial carrier strain with a membrane vesicle derived from a pathogenic bacteria;

(b) selecting a carrier strain having a membrane vesicle integrated into its cell wall; and

(c) forming a vaccine with the carrier strain of step (b).

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic Examiner's Interview conducted on September 19, 2001. In view of the Examiner's Interview, the amendments set forth above are presented to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the vaccine is a "cellular" vaccine. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 3, line 32 - page 4, line 3.

Claim 1 also has been amended to recite that the carrier strain is a "bacterial" strain. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 19, lines 20-25, and the Examples, at for example, Example 2 (page 44, line 20 - page 46, line 20), page 53, lines 23-26, and page 58, lines 26-28.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the membrane vesicle "comprises a bilayer." Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 10, line 19, and page 58, lines 2-4.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the antigen associated with the surface of the membrane vesicle "is produced by the microorganism from which the membrane vesicle is derived." Support for this amendment is found in the specification, at for example, page 12, lines 20-23, page 13, lines 18-20, and page 17, line 30 - page 18, line 3.

Claim 6 was amended to conform with the amendments to claim 1. Accordingly, support for the amendments to claim 6 is set forth above.

Claim 18 was added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, page 19, lines 23-25.

Claim 19 was added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, page 19, line 24.

Claim 20 was added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 11-15.

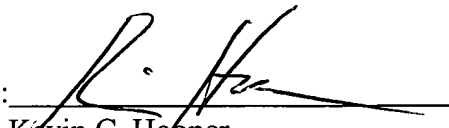
Claim 21 was added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, page 2, line 34 - page 3, line 14 and page 3, line 32 - page 4, line 3.

Claim 22 was added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, page 19, line 26 - page 20, line 9 and Example 2.

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments and added claims. Approval and entry of the amendments and added claims respectfully is requested.

In view of the Examiner's Interview, it is believed that the amendments and added claims set forth above place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the amendments and claim set and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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